

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF HASTINGS.

St. Rode,
London Road,
St. Leonards-on-Sea.
8th April, 1922.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report on the health and sanitary condition of the Rural District of Hastings for the year 1921.

In compliance with the request contained in a circular issued to Medical Officers of Health by the Ministry, laying down instructions as to matters to be reported on, and asking particularly for brevity, this report is very short.

In Rural Districts, where, of necessity, conditions change slowly, the reports vary only slightly year by year. The comparative immunity from infectious notifiable disease must be to the inhabitants a welcome fact, and this has occurred now with regularity for many years. It is due to the freedom of the atmosphere from pollution by smoke and dust, the high sunlight average, the scattered nature of the houses, and the absence of overcrowding.

The Council have erected and completed 14 new houses and there are 2 in the course of erection, but yet not finished. There is a need for more housing accommodation, and the developement of a beautiful rural district is handicapped by the lack of private enterprise in this respect. If 200 houses could be erected of a suitable type, they would be quickly occupied. The improvement in road transport, and the efficient service of motor buses now running to Hastings and Rye make the district a most desirable one for business men from the big city centres to retire to.

The district is situated to the north-east of Hastings with a coast line of five miles, and comprises the villages of Fairlight, 2995 acres, Guestling, 3575 acres, Pett, 2025 acres and a part of Ore contiguous to the Hastings Borough Boundary. The climate is mild and equable, with a high average of sunlight and freedom from fog and mist. The soil is sandy with patches of clay, and is undulating in conformation, sloping to the South and the Sea.

The Water Supply is good. Although participating in the general shortness prevailing over England due to the general absence of rainfall last summer, there was no serious water crisis.

General Statistics.

Area, 9570 acres.
 Population, 1829.
 No. of Houses, 523.
 No. of families or separate occupiers,
 Rateable Value, £14561.
 Sum represented by a penny rate, £52. 7s.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total	M.	F.	
	Legitimate.	23	17	6	
Births, 25.	Illegitimate.	2	-	2	Birth rate 13.665.
Deaths, Total, 21.	M. 11.	F. 10.	Death Rate, 11.481.		
Deaths of Infants under one year per 1000 births -					43.478.
<u>Notifiable Diseases during the year.</u>					


Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	4	4	
Pneumonia			
Measles	1		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	

Hospital Accommodation.

There is no hospital in the district, but ample accommodation is provided by the East Sussex Hospital at Hastings. Cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, enteric, etc. are immediately isolated in the Borough of Hastings Sanatorium. In the event of an outbreak of Small-pox, a contract has been entered into with the same Council whereby any cases occurring in the Rural will be isolated and treated in the Hastings Small-pox Hospital. The Council has made no special provision for Sanatorium treatment of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, but, when necessary, cases are sent to sanatoria elsewhere.

Sanitary Administration.

The Inspector has paid 674 visits of inspection. Factories, workshops, etc. are frequently inspected, and defects in



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cleanliness remedied. There is one slaughter-house in the district, and this is also frequently visited.

Public Health Staff.

This consists of one Sanitary Inspector, and an assistant for Dairies, Cowsheds and Workshops.

Housing.

No. of new houses erected during the year:

- (a) Total, 26.
(b) As part of a municipal housing Scheme, 8.

Unfit dwelling houses:

(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 223

(b) No. of dwelling houses which were inspected & recorded under the Housing Regulations, 1910.

(c) No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

(d) No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation. 30

Remedy of defects without service of Formal notices:
No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 30

Action under Statutory Powers:

(1) Proceedings under sec. 28 of the Housing & Town Planning Act, 1919. NONE

(a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. -

(b) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit: by owners, -
by local Authority in default of owners. -

(c) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close. -

(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.

(b) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied:
by owners. by Local Authority in default of owners. -

(3) Proceedings under Secs. 17 & 18 of the Housing & Town Planning Act, 1909:

(a) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.	None.
(b) No. of Closing Orders made.	"
(c) No. of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the houses having been made fit.	"
(d) No. of Demolition Orders.	"
(e) No. of houses demolished.	"

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Frank B. Lewis.

Medical Officer of Health.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frank B. Lewis", with a horizontal line underneath.

